

## The War Fifty Years Ago

**Activities of Federals on the Upper Mississippi---Wooden Gunboats Move Up Tennessee River to the Alabama Border---Efficiency of Warships Made Out of Passenger Steamers---Putting the New Ironclads to the Supreme Test---The New Confederate Ram and the David Built to Defeat Her---General W. T. Sherman Again Takes the Field---Lincoln Hurries Forward the Mortar Boats---Difficulties of Equipping Armies.**

By Captain GEORGE L. KILMER, Late U. S. V.

THIS period fifty years ago, the last week in February and the early days of March, was one of great activity in the opposing navies. In the east the Confederates were completing the famous ram Merrimack at Norfolk, Va. Feb. 23 the United States government accepted from John Edrington the little ironclad Monitor, although the pigmy was unfinished. For two weeks she remained in New York in the hands of mechanics, who worked night and day to have her ready to do battle against the Merrimack. The fame of this ram had spread in the north, and timid ones in Washington feared that city would be attacked, perhaps New York, Philadelphia and Boston in turn, unless some mysterious agent should come to the front and defeat her.

In the west the ships of both sides were getting ready to dispute the control of the Mississippi river. On the lower Mississippi the south, notably the state of Louisiana, was preparing to head off the western gulf squadron, which Commodore Farragut was assembling to attack the Confederate defenses at New Orleans. On the upper Mississippi and on the Tennessee river the Federal naval commanders were especially active. The navy had captured Fort Henry on Feb. 6 and fought well but vainly at Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland, ten days later. Immediately after the fall of Fort Donelson the warships of the fleet engaged there began to advance up the Tennessee toward Alabama.

### Warfare on the Upper Mississippi.

On March 1 the wooden gunboats Tyler and Lexington fought with the Confederate shore batteries at Pittsburgh, Tenn., the landing nearest to the future battle ground of Shiloh. Both vessels were to play an important part in that battle five weeks later. On the upper Mississippi the Fort Henry and Donelson fleet, called the western or Mississippi flotilla, went heroically to work to open the great waterway downward and meet the Farragut ships from New Orleans in case they got past the big forts which the Confederates had built at the river's mouth. Flag Officer Foote, commander of this flotilla, had been wounded at Fort Donelson, and at Fort Henry and Donelson together, three of the new ironclads had been put out of action temporarily by Confederate shots. These were the Essex, St. Louis and Carondelet.

The first action of Foote upon his recovery was to look after the Confederate post at Columbus, Ky., the point

of the first class. Walker won honors on the Tyler and was placed on the deck of one of the very first of the famous Eds ironclads launched at St. Louis in the fall of 1861, the Carondelet.

### Three Pioneer Gunboats.

The Tyler, with her consort, the Lexington and the Conestoga, began the warfare on the upper Mississippi in the summer of 1861 and became the nucleus of a powerful fleet of wooden boats and ironclads which early in the war gained control of the great



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COMMANDER HENRY WALKER, U. S. N., OF THE IRONCLAD CARONDELET.

waterway as far south as Vicksburg. These three ships had been purchased at Cincinnati in May, 1861, by Commander John Rodgers, son and namesake of the hero of 1812, and converted from river passenger steamers into gunboats. This had been done by lowering their machinery, strengthening their frames and protecting their decks by heavy bulwarks. The Tyler carried six eight-inch shell guns and two thirty-two-pounders. The Lexington four eight-inch guns and two thirty-two-pounders and the Conestoga four thirty-two-pounders. Like all of the naval force on the Mississippi at the time, they were under control of the war department, an arrangement which caused no little friction.

The ironclad additions to the fleet were made just before the attacks upon Fort Henry, and the ships were an experiment there and at Donelson. There was still much to learn about them after their performance under fire from the forts. One point unsettled was their availability for fighting against ships on the broad Mississippi. They had so far encountered no naval enemy on equal terms. As soon as the

post and removed all the stores and munitions of war down the Mississippi to the new stronghold established by General Beauregard at Island No. 19 and New Madrid. Beauregard had just arrived from Virginia to help stem the tide of conquest which the Federals were making in the central west.

This move against Columbus had been initiated by General W. T. Sherman. Sherman had just returned to the field after an absence of some months. In the fall of 1861 he had held a command in Kentucky on the so called "Big Sandy" line. From this duty he had been relieved by his superiors in a manner which placed him under a cloud. On his return from his leave Sherman was assigned to the drilling of recruits at a camp of instruction at Benton barracks, St. Louis. Here through the lowering days of an unusually wet winter he went doggedly on his work.

After the fall of Fort Henry General Halleck ordered Sherman to repair immediately to Paducah, Ky., and take command of the post there. In this service Sherman was to come into contact with Grant and emerge from the cloud that had hung over him all winter. His soldiers occupied the abandoned Confederate works at Columbus on March 2. His activities were shortly directed southward by way of the Tennessee river instead of the Mississippi. Orders reached him March 1 to organize a division to proceed up the Tennessee and to co-operate with forces under General Grant and C. F. Smith, who were to advance by the same route.

Leadership in the Federal operations against the new Confederate stronghold at New Madrid and Island No. 10 were intrusted to General John Pope, whose forces for the campaign were drawn from camps west of the Mississippi. Owing to the strength of the Confederate position a siege was prepared for the army to be supported by the navy. The Confederates had resolved to defend Island No. 10 to the last, because upon that depended the success of their cause in Missouri. In support of their 7,000 troops on the scene they mustered a respectable flotilla of wooden gunboats, converted to the service from river passenger steamers, the same as the Federal boats Tyler and her consorts.

### Lincoln and the Mortar Boats.

Additions had been made in February to the ironclads in Commodore Foote's flotilla and, what was equally important, a fleet of mortar boats. These were especially adapted to siege operations. It was said that their arrival in time to play a part in the siege of Island No. 10 was due to the impatience and energy of President Lincoln in person. The boats which would carry the mortars were built at St. Louis under the eyes of Commodore Foote, but the iron beds upon which the mortars would rest were cast at Pittsburgh. The getting of these mortar beds to the boats was the problem which troubled Lincoln. Foote finally sent a representative armed with due authority to the Pittsburgh plant to hurry the matter up. In spite of all, the boats had not been ready for use at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, but twenty of them reached Mississippi in time to strengthen the guns of Foote's fleet at Island No. 10.

The impending clash all along the front from tidewater Virginia to the

## Bispham Concert Rare Musical Treat Proves English Is Language of Song

SINGER AND PIANIST ARE WELL RECEIVED

David Bispham, America's premier baritone, contends that the language of Shakespeare is the only language in which music should be interpreted to the English speaking races; in fact, he goes further and boldly makes the assertion that it is the only language in which a large majority of the English speaking people can properly understand and appreciate the fineness of music. And, going still further Bispham proves his contention to be correct, by the magnificent manner in which he sings English translations of the foreign masters and English songs written by English speaking persons—as anyone, who had the pleasure of hearing this gifted concert artist Saturday night, will attest.

As a musical treat it would be hard to conceive anything that could easier reach the heart, better delight the ear, or prove more soothing and satisfying than the concert given by Bispham and his able assistant, the American pianist-composer, Harry M. Gilbert. That such was a fact was amply demonstrated by the rounds of applause that greeted singer and pianist upon the completion of each selection.

That Bispham is a finished artist was amply demonstrated by the manner in which he "warmed up" his fashionably attired audience. Before he sang a note he delivered a "concert monologue" on the absurdity of the use of Italian, French and German, as a means of expressing music for the benefit of the English speaking races, and, so witty was this little pre-concert talk that Bispham soon had his auditors in an uproar and in a most receptive mood for the program to follow. Not, however, that this was necessary, as the program, rendered in two parts was brimful of merit, consisting of songs of sterling worth, piano solos of the best and a recitation to music that was incomparable. Coupled with the merit of the program was the able rendition of each and every selection, making, in all, an evening of music that could not well be surpassed.

### Splendid Piano Solos

The first part of the evening's entertainment consisted of two groups of songs, the first group being classical works of foreign composers of two hundred years ago, who have gained fame in death. This was followed by a series of more recent foreign compositions, while between the two groups Bispham sang as a voluntary encore "The Pretty Creature." Among the second group was "When I Was a Boy" from Palstaff, and to accentuate the absurdity to which the use of foreign languages has been carried in the world of music, Bispham commented on the fact that the divine language of Shakespeare had been translated into Italian in this instance and then proceeded to sing a verse in the foreign tongue before rendering the song in its native language.

The second part of the program consisted of a group of recent compositions by Americans, including "Bid Me to Live," the music of which was written by Gilbert. As an encore Bispham sang a song written by an American Negro composer who, he said, has recently succeeded in having his ability recognized, but only after a German musician had pronounced his work good. The recitation of "King Robert of Sicily" proved one of the premier numbers on the program.

Between the parts Gilbert entertained with piano solos and as an encore played, with one hand, a solo which, at times, gave the impression that it was a duet.

**Program For Tonight**  
Tonight Bispham will cater to that part of the music loving population of Honolulu that prefers to hear songs in their native language and will render the following in Italian, German, French and English, and thereby prove that his fight for English music for the English speaking races is not because of his inability to handle foreign tongues:

**PART I.**  
Classical Songs  
Qui Slegno ("Magic Flute")...Mozart  
The Impatient Husbandmen ("The Seasons")...Haydn

**BORGES' RELEASE OPPOSED BY THAYER**

Although twenty-nine members of the recent legislature signed the petition to the governor asking that the life sentence of George Borges be mitigated, the relief prayed for is not anticipated—at least for some time to come. The petition contains the signatures of almost the entire membership of the house of representatives, including that of several senators, while the man who circulated it was Representative William J. Shelton, of Kauai.

Borges was convicted March 8, this year, of a statutory offense against his five-year-old niece, and given the life penalty by Circuit Judge Whitney.



David Bispham, baritone, and Harry M. Gilbert, pianist, who will appear in second concert tonight.

Die Ehre Gottes (Creation's Hymn).....Beethoven  
Der Wanderer (Gellert), Mark, Hark! the Lark (Shakespeare).....Schubert  
Ich grölle nicht (Heine).....Schumann  
Sapphische Ode (Schmidt).....Brahms  
Edward (Percy's Reliques).....Loewe  
Songs by Modern European Composers.  
Prologue ("Pagliacci").....Leoncavallo  
L'heure Exquise (Verlaine).....Debussy  
Zueignung (von Gilm).....Reynaldo Hahn  
Abendstern ("Tannhauser").....Richard Strauss  
Mr. Bispham

**PART II.**  
Recent Compositions by Americans.  
Piano Solos.  
Confluentia.....Edgar Stillman Kelley  
Gabrielle—Valse de Concert.....Harry M. Gilbert  
Mr. Gilbert.  
Songs.  
Prelude to the Music drama—"The Atonement of Pan" (Joseph D. Redding).....Henry Hadley  
Boat Song (Montrose Moses).....Harriet Ware  
Pirate Song (Robt. Louis Stevenson).....Hy. F. Gilbert  
Killiecrankie (Robt. Burns).....H. H. Wetzel  
Recitation to Music.  
The Raven (Edward Allan Poe).....Arthur Bergh  
Mr. Bispham.

He is about seventeen years old at the present time.

The petition to the governor, after reciting the imagined horrors of a long life in prison, concludes: "We are informed that his conviction was based on Borges's confession, which confession, we are told, is not the truth, being made with the hopes of being discharged." The statement by Judge Whitney, included in the papers submitted to the governor, says Borges was ably defended, having two attorneys, and indicates that he made a powerful fight for his freedom.

The matter has been submitted to Attorney General Thayer, who said this morning he probably will recommend that the petition be not granted, for the present at least, on the ground that his time in prison has been too brief.

Colonel E. H. Green, son of Hetty Green, has announced that he is no longer in the matrimonial market. He can find no one to suit his rather exacting requirements.

Mrs. Mary Ann Cooper, said to be the original of "Little Dorrit," has just died in London at the age of 93.

## A Tonic Free from Alcohol



Are you pale, weak, easily tired, and do you lack nerve power? Ask your doctor if Ayer's Sarsaparilla would not be good for you. He knows, and will advise you wisely. Not a drop of alcohol in this medicine. It puts red corpuscles into the blood, gives steady, even power to the nerves; and all without stimulation. Make no mistake. Take only those medicines the best doctors endorse. Ask your own doctor.

**Ayer's Sarsaparilla**

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U. S. A.

## PRESENT LAW MAY CLOSE HOUSES OF ILL-FAME

Declaring that, under the present laws, any citizen or corporation in Honolulu has the right to demand the closing down of houses fostering the social evil in any particular district, eight large corporations whose factories are located in Iwilei have called upon Sheriff Jarrett by petition to enforce the law in regard to all houses within this district. It is declared that under both the territorial laws and the federal Edmunds act power is given to enforce the closing down of all houses of ill fame. The corporations which have chosen to make use of what they believe to be their prerogatives are the Hawaiian Pineapple Company, the Hawaii Preserving Company, the Honolulu Gas Company, the oil companies, and the Lewers & Cooke Company.

F. J. Lowrey of the Lewers & Cooke Co. said this morning that the corporations are not asking that the houses in the Iwilei district be moved elsewhere in the city. "We are simply asking Sheriff Jarrett," he said, "to enforce the law as it is stated both in the territorial statutes and under the Edmunds act. A large number of young girls and women are employed by the corporations signing the request and it has been found that they have been molested by men of a low order while passing to and from their work."

Sheriff Jarrett now has the matter under his consideration but has taken no action as yet. Among those who believe that the corporations have the right for which they are petitioning is Senator James Coke, who stated before the senate that the present laws are stringent enough to permit of the closing of all houses of ill-fame by injunction upon the petition of residents in the affected districts.

In case the Hawaiian Pineapple Company and other corporations are able to require Sheriff Jarrett to enforce the law in Iwilei the direct result will be that citizens in all parts of the city may make a like demand upon the powers enforcing the laws. In this case, according to opinions expressed this morning, the people of Honolulu, in spite of the fact that a wavering legislature failed to pass the "Red-Light bill" for their protection will have a weapon in their hands with which to do away to a great extent with the social evil in the city.

The petition signed by the five corporations located in the Iwilei district was the subject of a great deal of comment this morning by those interested in the eradicating of the social evil from the community. Judge Whitney of the circuit court, who, in company with a party of legislators and others, made a visit to the restricted district in Iwilei last Monday night, stated that the houses of ill-fame are now located in the midst of what is perhaps the greatest industrial center of Honolulu and that for this reason no worse place for the segregation of the vice could be found. Guy H. Buttolph, also a member of the committee who accompanied the legislators, stated that the closing down of the houses in Iwilei would be productive of great good for the entire community.

Reverend A. E. Ebersole, President Griffiths of Oahu College, and William Thompson, after making an inspection of the Iwilei district, recommended the closing down of the houses and requested that the hold-over committee of the senate take the matter under advisement.

Sheriff W. P. Jarrett, when asked about the matter late this afternoon, stated that the petition of the corporations to close up the houses of ill-fame in Iwilei will be brought to the attention of the grand jury at the earliest possible opportunity. City and County Attorney John W. Cathcart said that the matter has not as yet been brought to his attention and that he would therefore make no statement in regard to the action to be taken.

London McCormack, a well-known actor, committed suicide in New York. For seven years he had played in San Francisco.



**Clothes that are Different we have Any Style You Want**

It does not matter what style or pattern you want we have it.

Our stock of Men's Suits for Spring is so complete we can suit the most fastidious taste. The styles this season surpass anything we have ever shown.

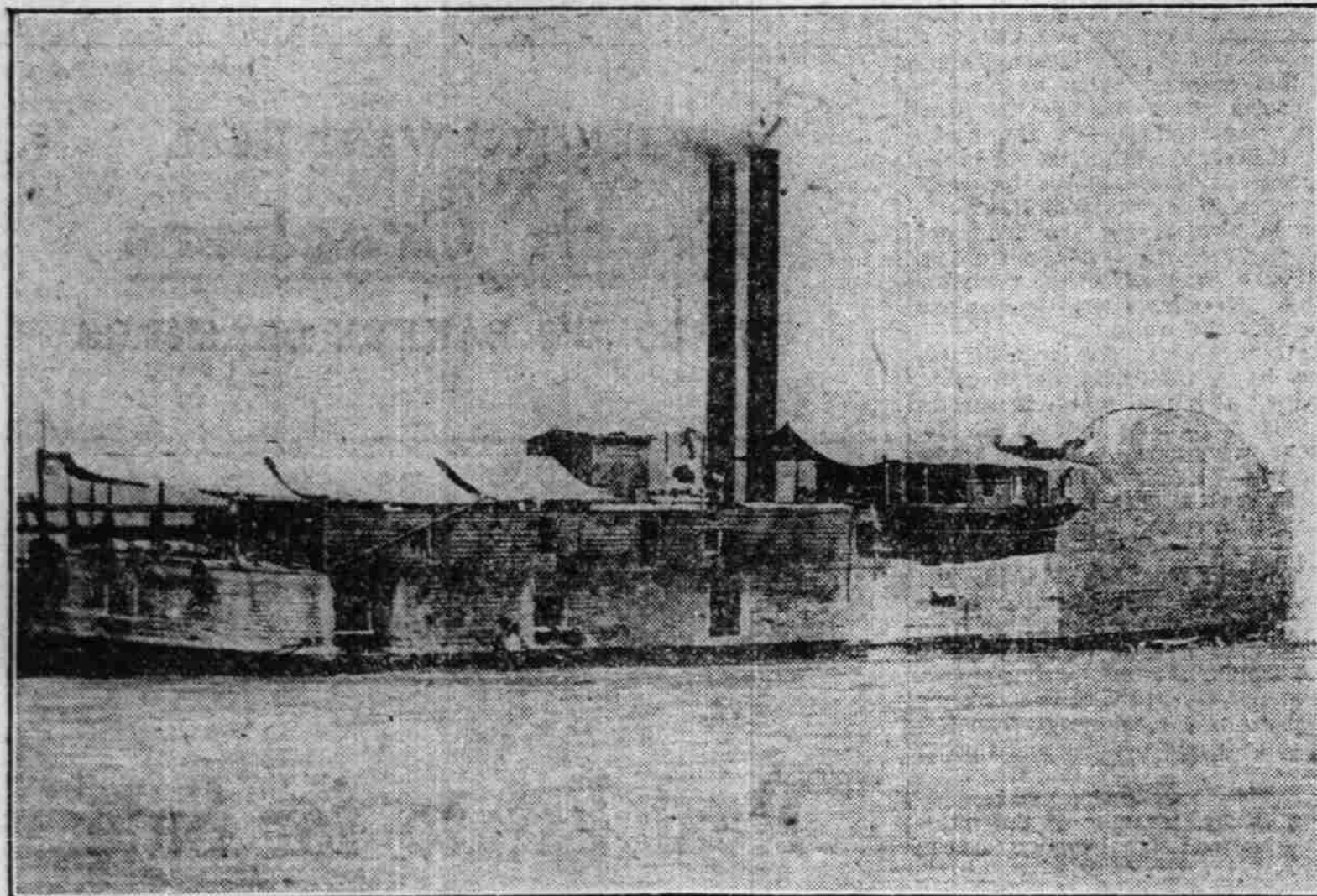
**The Clarion**

### TIMID CHILD EXCUSED AS COURT WITNESS

Because she did not understand the nature of an oath and appeared generally unable to answer intelligently any of the questions, Carmela Reyes, a seven-year-old Porto Rican girl named as prosecuting witness in the case against Amelio Prudente, a Filipino, on trial on a statutory offense, was excused this morning in Circuit Judge Robinson's court on the ground that her testimony would be unreliable.

The little girl did not understand English and when the questions were translated by the court interpreter, she invariably replied with a nod or shake of the head, displaying an extreme timidity. The crime is alleged to have taken place at Waipahu on January 13, when the Filipino and the Reyes family were residing in the same house. No further testimony was taken today, the hearing being continued until tomorrow morning, when Dr. Sinclair, who examined the child's physical condition, will be called as an expert witness.

On the request of George Straub, a creditor, temporary letters of administration have been granted Harry T. Mills for the estate of Blanche Martin, deceased. His bond is fixed at \$2,500. The petition recites that the known property of the estate is valued at about \$2000.



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THE UNITED STATES GUNBOAT TYLER, PIONEER WARSHIP ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

where the Confederates who were forced out of central Tennessee by the Federal victories on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers had assembled. The Confederate stronghold at Columbus had been maintained from the opening of the war. It was called the " Gibraltar of the west." The Federal ships felt the power of the Confederate ordnance at Columbus during the battle of Belmont, Mo., just across the river, on Nov. 7, 1861. In order to prevent the Confederate guns there from firing across the river against the Federals engaged at Belmont, also to prevent ships from carrying across Confederate troops to re-enforce those already fighting there, the little wooden gunboats Tyler and Lexington steamed close up and opened fire upon the batteries on the bluff. It was a hopeless undertaking. The commander of the Tyler at Belmont was Captain Henry Walke, a pioneer river fighter

Carondelet came out of the repair docks Commander Walke was ordered to try the experiment of backing her up stream. It turned out a complete fiasco, according to Walke, who wrote: "She would sheer from one side of the river to the other, and with two anchors astern she could not be held steady enough to fight her bow guns down stream. She dragged both anchors alternately until they came together, and the experiment failed completely."

### Sherman Again at the Front.

The Carondelet was part of the fleet which reconnoitered at Columbus at the close of February. The forts looked formidable, and Flag Officer Foote withdrew to get together his full fleet of ironclads and mortar boats. Before he returned to the attack the Confederates under General Leonidas Polk, the "soldier bishop," had evacuated the

mountains of Arkansas called troops from the various state camps to the nearest seat of war. Recruiting had been brisk all the fall and early winter, and so free was the response for men that the contending governments became embarrassed in supplying equipments for the various arms of service and moving troops, equipments and supplies to distant points where they would be needed.

The pressure for weapons to fight with was very great on both sides. As the first year of war drew to its close the shortage was felt on both sides of the line. In the north the arsenals worked day and night, and private manufacturing plants were impressed to turn out muskets, pistols, cannon and sabers. The same thing was going on in the south, but to a limited degree. In its dilemma it imported many rifles and cannons from Europe.